

U.M. Daily

Thursday, June 18, 2026

42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Opening Worship
8:30 a.m. (PDT)

Opening Song: *Awe & Wonder* The Astonish Ensemble

Affirmation of Faith – written by Rev. Stephanie York Arnold, General Secretary, The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Rev. Stephanie Rice invited the attendees to join together in an Affirmation of Faith.

Praise Song: *God is Still Speaking* The Astonish Ensemble

Prayers of the People – Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

Postlude *God is Still Speaking Reprise* The Astonish Ensemble

Participants in Worship Service:
Rev. Stephanie Rice
Rev. Sharon Rhodes-Wickett

The Astonish Ensemble:

Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustin Donati, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2
Sean Lyons, Viola
Jeness Johnson, Cello

42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Plenary 2
9:00 a.m. (PDT)

Call to Order – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Bishop Escobedo-Frank shared Ana Goar Johnson, West District Lay Leader, is joining the table this morning.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank introduced the members of the Cabinet.

Orders of the Day - Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair

Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements – Rev. Won-Seok Yuh, Assistant Conference Secretary

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh reviewed Conference procedures and logistical information for members and guests. Participants were reminded to identify themselves at the microphone by stating their name, preferred pronouns, clergy or lay status, and church or ministry context before speaking. Instructions were also provided regarding the use of intention paddles and participation procedures during plenary sessions.

Attendees were encouraged to utilize MeetingPulse for access to conference materials, the participant guide, legislation, support resources, and microphone requests. Technical assistance remained available, and participants were asked to silence devices and limit use to one device and one browser tab when possible.

Additional announcements included a gathering and photo opportunity for members of COSROW following the afternoon plenary session, reminders regarding meals and Conference information available through the conference website, and wellness guidance for attendees. Conference members were encouraged to remain mindful of safety concerns, including floor cables, hydration, and sun protection.

Rev. Yuh concluded by inviting Conference participants to support one another through prayer, attentive care, and openness to witnessing how God is at work throughout the Annual Conference session.

Board of Ordained Ministry – Rev. Greg Batson, Board of Ordained Ministry Chair

Rev. Greg Batson reported on the Board's ongoing work of discerning, guiding, and evaluating candidates for ordained ministry within the California-Pacific Conference. He noted that the Board continues to refine and strengthen its processes in collaboration with the Bishop, Cabinet, and District Committees on Ordained Ministry, with details of the Board's work outlined in the Conference report.

Rev. Batson introduced the 2026 clergy class, which includes five candidates for Provisional Membership, five candidates for Full Membership, and two clergy transfers from other Methodist denominations.

Prior to the introduction of the candidates, Rev. Batson recognized two significant milestones in the life of The United Methodist Church. He commemorated the seventieth anniversary of full clergy rights for women in the Methodist Church, celebrating the leadership and ministry of clergywomen who have faithfully served the Church since that historic action in 1956. He also recognized the thirtieth anniversary

of the establishment of the Order of Deacons in 1996, giving thanks for the ministry of deacons, who are ordained to Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice and who serve as vital bridges between the Church and the world.

Expressing gratitude for the dedication of the Board and its partners in the ordination process, Rev. Batson concluded by inviting Registrar Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, along with the Board's provisional and full connection registrars, Rev. Karl Stuckenberg and Rev. Amy Aitken, to lead the introduction of the clergy candidates who had completed the Board's evaluation process and were being presented to the Annual Conference.

Introduction of Clergy Candidates – Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin, Registrar

For Provisional Membership and Commissioning on the ELDER track, the Board presents:

Ruben Esponda
Viliami Ongo Koli
Kiana Nicholson
Zicong Li
Bridie Charlotte Roberts

For ordination as a DEACON in full connection, the Board presents:

Brian Tipton

For ordination as ELDERS in Full Connection, the Board presents:

Martin Finau
Christian Jung
Sejin Kaleb Oh
Kimberly Ports

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank was invited to ask the general examination questions to all the candidates, followed by the examination of Deacons and Elders, and the historic questions to those candidates who will be ordained and/or admitted into full connection.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: My siblings in Christ, you have been called to an ordained, commissioned, or recognized status in set apart ministry. The Church now confirms your calling.

As ordained or commissioned ministers, you are to be coworkers with all the people of God: With laity, bishops, elders, deacons, local pastors, provisional members, diaconal ministers, deaconesses, home missionaries, supply pastors, with all who serve God in the Church.

Remember you are called to serve rather than to be served, to proclaim the faith of the Church and no other, to look after the concerns of God above all. So, we may know you believe yourselves to be called by God and that you profess the Christian faith, we ask you:

Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of ordained or licensed ministry?

Candidates: I do so believe, and confess.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Do you believe in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and confess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Candidates: I do so believe, and confess.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Are you persuaded that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain all things necessary for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ and are unique and authoritative?

Candidates: I am so persuaded, by God's grace.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you be faithful in prayer, in the study of the Holy Scriptures, and with the help of the Holy Spirit continually rekindle the gift of God that is in you?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you do your best to pattern your life in accordance with the teachings of Christ?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you, in the exercise of your ministry, lead the people of God to faith in Jesus Christ, to participate in the life and work of the community, and to seek peace, justice, and freedom for all people?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church, accepting and upholding its order, liturgy, doctrine, and discipline, defending it against all doctrines contrary to God's Holy Word, and committing yourself to be accountable with those serving with you, and to the bishop and those who are appointed to supervise your ministry?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Will you, for the sake of the Church's life and mission, covenant to participate in the life of the order, into which you are ordained, commissioned, or recognized? Will you give yourself to God through the order in order to sustain and build each other up in prayer, study, worship and service under the rule of life set forth in the vows you take this day?

Candidates: I will, with the help of God.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: And now, may God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you grace to perform them, that the work begun in you may be brought to perfection.

Rev. Eva Thai-Erwin thanked the Provisional Candidates and invited the Full Connection Candidates to remain on the stage for further examination questions.

Examination of the Deacon

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: A deacon is called to share in Christ's ministry of servanthood, to relate the life of the community to its service in the world, to lead others into Christian discipleship, to nurture disciples for witness and service, to lead in worship, to teach and proclaim God's Word, and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to interpret to the church the world's hurts and hopes, to serve all people, particularly the poor, the sick, and the oppressed, and to lead Christ's people in ministries of compassion and justice, liberation and reconciliation, especially in the face of hardship and personal sacrifice. This is the rule of life and the work of a deacon. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of a deacon?

Candidate: I do so believe.

Examination of Elders

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: An elder is called to share in the ministry of Christ and of the whole church: To preach and teach the Word of God and faithfully administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion; to lead the people of God in worship and prayer; to lead persons to faith in Jesus Christ; to exercise pastoral supervision, to order the life of the congregation and the connection, to counsel the troubled, and declare the forgiveness of sin; to lead the people of God in obedience to Christ's mission in the world; to seek justice, peace, and freedom for all people; and to take a responsible place in the government of the Church and in service in and to the community. This is the rule of life and work of an elder. Do you believe that God has called you to the life and work of an elder?

Candidates: I do so believe.

Historic Examination for Admission into Full Connection

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Siblings in Christ, our Discipline instructs bishops to guide aspiring ministers through self-reflection and examinations. These weighty questions, all but one seeking an affirmative answer, reveal Wesley's understanding of pastoral ministry. So, I ask you: (*Book of Discipline*: ¶325)

- (1) Have you faith in Christ?
- (2) Are you going on to perfection?
- (3) Do you expect to be made perfect in love in this life?
- (4) Are you earnestly striving after perfection in love?
- (5) Are you resolved to devote yourself wholly to God and God's work?
- (6) Do you know the General Rules of our Church?
- (7) Will you keep the General Rules of our Church?
- (8) Have you studied the doctrines of The United Methodist Church?
- (9) After full examination do you believe that our doctrines are in harmony with the Holy Scriptures?
- (10) Will you support and maintain them?
- (11) Have you studied our form of Church discipline and polity?
- (14) Will you diligently instruct the children in every place?
- (15) Will you visit from house to house?
- (16) Will you recommend fasting or abstinence, both by precept and example?
- (17) Are you determined to employ all your time in the work of God?

- (18) Are you in debt so as to embarrass you in your work?
- (19) Will you observe the following directions?
- (a) Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never trifle away time; neither spend any more time at any one place than is strictly necessary.
 - (b) Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our rules, but keep them; not for wrath, but for conscience' sake.

Congratulations, you have answered all the Exam Questions.

We also recognize clergy who are going through the Transfer Process. For Provisional Membership on the Elder track through transfer from another Methodist denomination, the Board Recommends Baldwin Avendano (Metodista de Mexico), and Riju Jayan (Church of South India). We welcome them both.

Retirement Video – Media Team
Rev. Jonathan Chute

Episcopal Address – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Preaching from Psalm 78:1-7, Bishop Escobedo-Frank considered the Church's witness across generations, asking how the people of God have responded and are called to respond to periods of profound social, technological, and cultural change.

The Bishop began by examining key moments in history that transformed society and challenged the Church's mission. The Industrial Revolution brought dramatic technological advances and the migration of people in rural communities into urban centers, producing worker exploitation, unsafe labor conditions, poverty, overcrowding, and disease. In response to many of these same conditions in England, John Wesley and the early Methodist movement combined evangelism with practical ministry to those who were poor, hungry, sick, imprisoned, and marginalized. Wesley's emphasis on "social holiness," the DNA of who we are as Methodists, established a Methodist tradition of engaging both spiritual and societal needs.

She considered the mixed legacy Methodists have regarding slavery, noting Wesley's strong opposition to slavery while acknowledging the division that emerged among Methodists over the issue. At the same time, Methodists continued to establish hospitals, provide care for vulnerable populations, address housing needs, and advocate for workers. The Bishop reminded the Conference that the Church's witness has often been strongest when it has addressed both spiritual and societal needs.

Turning to the Holocaust, Bishop Escobedo-Frank recalled her seminary studies on the Church's response to the Shoah and noted the painful reality that many churches remained largely silent in the face of injustice. She shared how her father, a Lutheran pastor, participated in efforts of repentance and reconciliation related to that silence. This historical example raises an ongoing question for every generation: How will the Church respond to the defining moral challenges of its time?

The Bishop explored this question through the experiences of five generations within her own family.

Considering her grandmother's lifetime, she described the dramatic changes in transportation, from horse-and-buggy to automobiles, airplanes, and eventually space exploration. While churches often view new developments with caution, they also serve as stable communities amid rapid change. For her grandmother, the Church provided grounding, identity, and belonging.

Considering her parents' generation, Bishop Escobedo-Frank spoke of the transformation of communication, from handwritten letters to telephones and mobile technology. During this period, churches continued to gather people together, offering spiritual formation and communal connection as society became increasingly mobile and interconnected.

Speaking about her own lifetime, she described the transition from an analog world to one shaped by computers and digital technology. Churches eventually adopted emerging technologies like websites, digital worship resources, livestreaming, and online communication. She also observed that along with these advancements, society's increasing reliance on technology has also contributed to a growing trend of isolation and loneliness. One of the Church's ongoing responsibilities is to restore human connection, strengthen community, and help people renew their relationships with one another, with creation, and with God.

Turning to her children's generation, the Bishop considered the rise of social media and the challenges of living in a world where digital identities can sometimes overshadow in-person relationships. She noted a growing desire among younger adults for more authentic experiences, evident in a renewed interest in activities like gardening, cooking, hiking, and other forms of embodied community life. While many young adults have become disconnected from institutional religion, she emphasized that the Church still has an essential role to play in addressing spiritual hunger, loneliness, questions of meaning and purpose, and the growing divisions within society.

The Bishop suggested that the Church offers a unique witness in a polarized culture. Congregations bring together people with differing viewpoints who nonetheless gather around a common table. In a time marked by division and "cancel culture," the Church can model reconciliation, mutual respect, and Christian community across differences.

Looking towards her grandchildren's generation, Bishop Escobedo-Frank addressed the emerging realities of AI, robotics, and algorithm-driven technologies. Younger generations have never known a world without screens and digital connectivity. While acknowledging the opportunities created by technological innovation, she also highlighted the concerns including job displacement, privacy violations, social manipulation, economic inequality, psychological harm, and environmental impacts associated with expanding technological infrastructure.

In this rapidly changing environment, qualities such as empathy, discernment, critical thinking, conscience, and relationship-building are becoming increasingly important. These deeply human capacities are areas in which the Church has much to offer. As society grapples with the ethical and environmental implications of AI and technological advancement, the Church is called to advocate for human dignity, care for creation, and the well-being of vulnerable communities.

Throughout the address, Bishop Escobedo-Frank returned to the central conviction that the Church has a vital role to play in every era. Whether confronting industrialization, slavery, war, technological change, social division, or artificial intelligence, the people of God are called to respond faithfully to the challenges before them.

The Bishop concluded by reminding the Conference of its responsibility to pass on the story of God's faithfulness to future generations. The Church's task is to teach, witness, serve, and nurture hope so that those who come after us may place their trust in God and continue the work of discipleship.

At the end of the Episcopal Address, Director of Communications Dr. Alyssa Fisher encouraged the Members of the Conference to reflect on:

- What experiences can the church offer that no machine or algorithmic program can provide?
- If Methodists in 2050 looked back on us, what would we hope they would say about how we responded to the rise of AI and other digital technologies?

Retirement Video – Media Team

Rev. William DeBos

Connectional Tables / CFA Presentation – Rev. George Hooper and Rev. Molly Vetter

Representing the Connectional Table and the Council on Finance and Administration, Rev. George Hooper considered the importance of connectionalism as a defining characteristic of The United Methodist Church. He expressed gratitude for those who work to ensure that diverse voices are heard and that all members have a place at the table as the Conference discerns its shared mission.

Drawing from John 14, Rev. Hooper emphasized Jesus' call for disciples to continue Christ's work in the world. He noted that the Church is able to accomplish greater things when it serves together in connection, united in purpose and mission.

Rev. Hooper reminded Conference members that they are connected not only through the Annual Conference but also through the broader Body of Christ and the ministry of local congregations. He considered a question posed to the Conference two years earlier: What do congregations need in order to be the presence of Christ in their communities, and what can only be accomplished through connectional ministry? He noted that the responses to those questions continue to guide the work of the Connectional Table and shape Conference priorities.

He further highlighted the relationship between mission and stewardship, emphasizing that connectional giving is an expression of the Church's shared commitment to ministry. Through the faithful stewardship of resources and collective participation in mission, congregations can accomplish together what they could not achieve alone.

Rev. Molly Vetter, Chair of the Council on Finance and Administration, reported on the Council's continued efforts to strengthen the Conference's financial sustainability, transparency, and stewardship. She highlighted significant operational improvements made since the arrival of Chief Financial Officer Robert Yamamoto in October, including clearer accounting systems, more consistent billing processes, improved reporting capabilities, and stronger communication among conference staff and leadership.

These improvements have strengthened the Conference's ability to monitor expenditures, address budget concerns, and make more strategic use of financial resources. They have also enabled Conference leaders to develop provisional plans for addressing liabilities associated with legal settlements and to engage in long-range financial planning that supports ministry while remaining mindful of the financial commitments requested of local churches.

Rev. Vetter outlined two major financial proposals before the Annual Conference: a proposed rules change regarding the calculation of apportionments and the proposed 2027 apportioned budget. She noted that the

afternoon session would focus on the budget proposal, while the morning presentation centered on the apportionment rules change.

As part of her report, Rev. Vetter provided updates on several ongoing initiatives. She announced that the Conference's fossil fuel divestment efforts are expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2026. She also recognized congregations that are current in their apportionment giving through May, expressing gratitude for their faithful support of connectional ministry.

Additionally, she highlighted the establishment of the Rev. M. Guadalupe "Lupita" Alonso-Redondo Scholarship Initiative in partnership with Claremont School of Theology. Through the conversion of a longstanding conference loan of \$1.1M into scholarship funding, the initiative will support the theological education of candidates preparing for ministry in Hispanic and Latine communities within the California-Pacific Conference. The scholarship honors the legacy of Rev. Alonso-Redondo and her commitment to immigrant communities and pastoral leadership.

The primary focus of the presentation was the proposed apportionment rules change (Rules 26-01). Rev. Vetter explained that the proposal would replace the current Grade Figure Formula with a simpler model based on congregational income. Developed in response to conversations at the 2025 Annual Conference, the proposal seeks to create a more transparent, sustainable, and understandable system for determining each congregation's contribution to the Conference's shared ministries.

Under the proposal, the Conference budget would be tied to approximately 10 percent of the collective income of local churches. Congregations would be grouped according to annual income and assigned contribution rates of 9, 10, or 11 percent, with larger churches contributing at the higher percentage and smaller churches contributing at the lower percentage. Rev. Vetter emphasized that the proposal is intended to root Conference finances more directly in the realities of local church ministry, reduce year-to-year fluctuations, shorten reporting delays, and provide a clearer framework for congregations to understand and anticipate their apportionments.

She noted that the proposal had been reviewed with attention to equity across districts and demographic contexts and that it represents a more moderate transition than a flat tithe model. While acknowledging that some congregations may experience significant changes during the initial implementation year, she expressed confidence that the revised system would produce greater predictability and sustainability over time.

Concluding her remarks, Rev. Vetter encouraged conference members to review the proposal, ask questions, and participate in ongoing conversations before the vote. She emphasized that apportionments are more than a financial mechanism; they are an expression of the conference's shared commitment to mission, ministry, and connectional life.

The floor was opened for questions and comments.

Tom Griffith, Clergy, Retired: I'm going by my recollection that money and special offerings that came from sale of property must be used for real property. I'm hearing you're saying that those funds could be used for ongoing current expenses, and I'm questioning whether that's within the disciplinary requirements.

Rev. Molly Vetter: It's outside of my understanding of my job to enforce that rule within our discipline, but I believe the reality is our policy and practice is not to sell real property to fund our annual ministries. But

we're also asked to report annually if we did. These are the questions in Line 52 in our statistical tables as I understand it.

Doug Dickson, Clergy: A lot of our churches have the tendency to fund ministries through specific offerings which go through designated or restricted funds, which other churches might use in annual budgets. I'm wondering how that difference in accounting and how they fundraise might be considered in this.

Rev. Molly Vetter: All of our systems rely on faithfully doing it as best we discern and make sense of it. I expect that there are some churches and occasions when we have not been paying close attention to Line 52T because it doesn't have an impact on anything, but the vision is that our annual income that supports our ongoing life would be the basis from which we tithe our gifts to the Annual Conference, that also enables jurisdictional and general church work. I trust that we're all making as faithful as possible decisions with how we use the resources we have for furthering the Kingdom of God.

Jean Youngquist, Lancaster UMC: We have a significant loan due to remodeling the church. Is the amount we collect for the mortgage payment, which we keep separate, is that included in the part we have to pay 10%? Will we have a responsibility to pay more for already paying more? Our building does not belong to our local church.

Rev. Molly Vetter: I will not respond to that now due to time, but encourage further conversation. Robert and I are both available for sidebars in hallways, and your superintendents are available and are a wealth of resources.

Jean Youngquist: I've been crying this from the wilderness for a long time.

Rev. Molly Vetter: Unfortunately, that is all the time we have on the floor but I am happy to continue the conversation. You can use the online form, catch us in the hallway, or speak to your superintendents. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in this work.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Robert will talk to you to help you get this question answered.

Conference Staff Recognition – Rev. Jonathan Chute

Rev. Jonathan Chute led a time of recognition for Conference leaders and staff members celebrating significant milestones of service within the California-Pacific Conference. Emphasizing the importance of continuity, faithful leadership, and dedicated service in the life of the Church, he expressed gratitude for those who have contributed to the Conference's ministries over many years.

Rev. Chute recognized Rev. Moonyoung Lee, East District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet, for five years of service in that leadership role. He also honored Erin Hawkins for five years of faithful and energetic service to the Conference.

Additional recognition was given to Larry Saunders of Camp Wrightwood for five years of service and Christyl Comperini of Camp Cedar Glen for ten years of service.

Following the staff recognitions, Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank acknowledged the Tongan United Methodist community as it commemorates the bicentennial of Christianity in Tonga. The Bishop expressed gratitude for the faith, witness, and gifts that Tongan Christians have shared with the global Church and with the California-Pacific Conference, offering the Conference's prayers and celebration alongside them.

General & Jurisdictional Delegate Work – Rev. Cathie Capp

Rev. Cathie Capp provided an overview of the process for electing delegates to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, emphasizing that the work of discernment and voting is guided by Robert's Rules of Order and rooted in prayerful consideration.

Before voting commenced, Conference members were invited into table conversations designed to encourage holy conferencing and thoughtful discernment. These discussions provide an opportunity for participants to listen to one another, broaden their perspectives, and consider the gifts needed for effective leadership within the delegation.

Conference members were encouraged to consider several questions during their conversations, including what the Conference needs from its delegation, the gifts and graces required for the role, who carries those gifts, and whether the Conference has fully heard and considered the diverse voices represented among the nominees.

Rev. Capp explained the election procedures, noting that delegates would be elected by simple majority vote. The Conference began with the election of General Conference delegates, with clergy and laity voting simultaneously within their respective orders. Voting is conducted electronically, with each member eligible to vote for up to two candidates within their clergy or lay category. The election process would continue through successive ballots until the full delegation was elected.

Catherine Henry Wingate, Laity, La Cañada UMC: I am requesting a point of order. I am concerned that we have not had time to read the biographical information on the nominees. We did not get that information until less than an hour before this plenary. I would like the chance to learn about them before we vote. My suggestion is that we move the vote until the afternoon plenary.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank: Thank you. We have already approved the Orders of the Day; however, I would like to test the room to see if we wish to go ahead with the Orders of the Day or vote this afternoon.

52% voted to vote this afternoon.

Retirement Videos – Media Team

Rev. N. Adiel DePano

Rev. Dr. April Herron

Miracle Sunday – Rev. Paige Eaves

Rev. Paige Eaves presented on the Miracle Sunday initiative, a global effort of the Council of Bishops to establish an endowment supporting theological education across The United Methodist Church, particularly in Africa, the Philippines, and Eastern Europe.

The initiative was introduced through the story of faithful pastoral leadership in Nigeria following the deaths of three United Methodists in Munga Dosa in December 2024. Amid grief and uncertainty, Bishop Ande Emmanuel and Rev. Eli S. Yaku provided spiritual leadership and pastoral care to their community. Both leaders received theological formation at the United Methodist Banyam Theological Seminary in Bambar, Nigeria, where rigorous theological study is paired with practical leadership training.

The proposed endowment will provide scholarships to support the preparation of future clergy and church leaders throughout the worldwide connection. Conference leaders emphasized that the goal is to ensure that well-equipped pastoral leaders are available to serve communities facing complex social, economic, and ministry challenges.

Members learned that retired Bishop Grant Hagiya, retired Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, and Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank have provided a combined anchor gift of \$11,000 toward the initiative. Rev. Amy Aitken, who serves on the executive committee of the Fund for Theological Education, has also contributed to the effort.

Rather than receiving a special offering during the Annual Conference, participants were invited to engage with the Miracle Sunday campaign through study materials, video resources, and ongoing district communications. Rev. Eaves expressed the hope that the California-Pacific Conference will raise \$50,000 by October 11 in support of the scholarship endowment, joining similar efforts throughout the global United Methodist connection.

A short video from a United Methodist seminarian in Sierra Leone was shown.

Instructions & Closing Prayer

Ana Goar Johnson, West District Lay Leader, was invited to lead the body in prayer.

42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference Plenary 3 2:00 p.m. (PDT)

Call to Order - Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank called the plenary session to order.

Orders of the Day - Rev. Cathie Capp, Agenda Chair

Rev. Capp presented the Orders of the Day and moved the Orders of the Day.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Announcements - Rev. Won-Seok Yuh

Attendees were encouraged to utilize MeetingPulse for access to conference materials, the participant guide, legislation, support resources, and microphone requests. Technical assistance remained available, and participants were asked to silence devices and limit use to one device and one browser tab when possible.

The 70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination was highlighted.

Bishop's Award – Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Bishop Escobedo-Frank welcomed and shared short biographies on each of the Award Recipients, and the recipients shared their heart-felt gratitude.

This year's recipients for the 2026 Bishop's Awards are:

Khanh Doan
Randa Krakow

Rev. Dr. Edward Hansen
Robert N. Mansfield, Jr.

Rev. Alan Mark & Kara Mark
Suanne Ware-Diaz

Leah Gallardo Switzer

Table Talks – Rev. Cathie Capp

Table Talk Discussions:

- What do we need from our delegation?
- What gifts and graces does this role call for?
- Who carries those gifts?
- Who represents our perspectives well, and have we heard those voices well?

General & Jurisdictional Delegate Work and/or Legislation – Rev. Bob Rhodes & Rev. Cathie Capp

Rev. Bob Rhodes and Rev. Cathie Capp provided instructions for the afternoon session of delegate nominations. The slate of nominations presented by the Methodists For Social Action (MFSA) was developed in consultation with additional representatives and was not solely MFSA-driven.

Because voting was not completed during the morning session, Conference members proceeded with the election of General Conference delegates. Instructions were reviewed for the electronic voting process, including access to the full list of nominees and the ability to vote for up to two candidates within each voting category.

Clergy members vote for clergy delegates and lay members vote for lay delegates. Conference leaders encouraged participants to approach the election process prayerfully and with openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the Conference discerned its delegation for the General Conference.

Clergy Nominees

Sunny Ahn
Amy Aitken
Israel Alvaran
Richard Bentley
Lea Booth
Thomas Choi
Jonathan Chute
Christy Ann Clark
Drew Davis
John Finau
Hannah Ka
Brian Suk-Boo Lee

Moonyoung Lee
Melissa MacKinnon
Allison Mark
Brian Parcel
Mary Ann Pickard
Bob Rhodes
Stephanie Rice
Brent Ross
Molly Vetter
Won-Seok Yuh
Charlene Zuill

Lay Nominees

Maikolo Brown
Frederick “Rick” Cook III
Gaye Fisher
Rosie Guadarrama
Erin Hawkins
Ana Goar Johnson

Kevin Kang
Young Mae Kim
Sonya Lee
Mele Maka
Sharon McCart
Michael Mitchell

Rachel Gipson
Dione Taylor
Guillermo Torres
Monalisa S. Tu'itahi

Ana-Haydee Urda
Connor Walden
Cathy Wilson
Jason Takagi

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the first vote.

First vote: There is no election. We need 50% plus 1

Hannah Ka, Clergy, First UMC of San Diego: I want to be considered for the Jurisdictional Delegation only.

Kevin Kang, Crescenta Valley UMC, Laity: I would like to be considered for the Jurisdictional Delegation only

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the second vote.

Moonyoung Lee, Clergy, East District Superintendent: I am grateful for your love and support. I only want to be considered for the Jurisdictional Conference. So please do not vote for me at this time for the General Conference Delegation.

Rev. Capp offered a prayer before the second vote.

Erin Hawkins was elected in the first Laity election.

Clergy ballot – no election.

Rev. Capp led the body in prayer before the third ballot.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the third vote.

There is no election this time.

Richard Bentley, Clergy: Could we see the vote results two or three times? It's hard to remember what the results are. I would find this helpful.

Rev. Cathie Capp: Because one person has been elected, the Laity can now only vote for one delegate.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for the fourth vote.

Monalisa Tu'itahi was elected in the second Laity election.

Rev. Thomas Choi was elected in the first Clergy election.

Rev. Cathie Capp: We are going to do one final vote for this plenary – Clergy only. The Laity has accomplished their goal.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a Fifth vote for Clergy Delegates only.

The results of the Fifth Vote – there is no election.

Rev. Cathie Capp: In an effort to complete this task in this plenary session, we are going to increase voting time so that our online siblings will have more time to vote. I ask Bishop Escobedo-Frank to have the clergy vote one more time.

Bishop called for a Sixth Vote for Clergy Delegates.

Rev. Molly Vetter was elected in the second Clergy election.

Budget Discussion – Rev. George Hooper and Rev. Molly Vetter / Robert Yamamoto
Introducing the Conference budget presentation, Rev. Hooper emphasized the principle that “money follows mission,” noting that faithful stewardship begins with a clear sense of purpose and ministry. Drawing from Matthew 6:33 -- “seek ye first the kin-dom of God and everything else will follow,” he reminded Conference members to trust that resources will follow a compelling and faithful vision.

Rev. Hooper considered the changing realities of stewardship in local congregations, noting that traditional approaches to fundraising and financial support are no longer sufficient. Churches and Conference ministries must continually tell the story of their mission and invite participation in that work throughout the year.

He highlighted the growing partnership between the Connectional Table and the Council on Finance and Administration, describing a collaborative process that seeks to align mission, vision, and financial resources. With the support of the Bishop, the Connectional Table has worked to bring Conference leaders together across ministry areas to discern shared priorities, foster communication, and create space for sharing a collective vision.

This collaborative approach has helped Conference leaders identify new opportunities for ministry funding, including more strategic uses of designated funds and other financial resources. By working together around a common vision, Conference leaders have been able to better understand how existing resources can be utilized to support ministry priorities.

The proposed budget is the result of cooperation between the Connectional Table and the CFA, expressing priorities and goals that have emerged through several years of shared discernment. The spending plan is intended to align financial resources with the Conference’s mission and ministry objectives.

Rev. Hooper expressed hope that the budget would inspire enthusiasm and participation throughout the Conference. By clearly connecting financial stewardship with ministry impact, congregations can see their contributions as an investment in the shared work of making disciples and transforming communities.

Chief Financial Officer Robert Yamamoto was introduced and invited to present the details of the Conference’s financial plan.

Mr. Robert Yamamoto, Annual Conference CFBO, thanked all the leadership of the Conference and invited the members of the Connectional Table and the GCFA to stand and be recognized.

A slide was shown of a Cal-Pac Summary based on 2024 statistics, which included membership data, professions of faith, baptisms, online giving, and worship. There are 46,000 members of the Cal-Pac

Conference, and women make up 61% of our Conference's churches. The Conference's diversity was highlighted by noting that non-white members are 52% of the total membership. Wespath also uses this information.

According to 2024 data, females were in the top 10%; however female members are now 4th in a three-year change. Mr. Yamamoto shared that when we have more data, there is better learning. These data sets are part of a series of data which people can look at.

Current church giving is increasing, and online giving is increasing. Mobile apps are growing opportunities for stewardship.

A slide showing this Conference's apportionment data from 2022 through 2026 was shared. Through May of this year, there has been an increase in apportionments each month. CGFA is hoping to achieve 74% by the end of the year. CGFA's job is to support and celebrate with the Conference.

Information was given about Conference Receivables in the Conference. The good news is that the year-after-year growth in Receivables has been reduced. Additional information was provided for the Cal-Pac Operating Income Trend.

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights:

This budget incorporates a process revision, including the Connectional Table, to align ministerial needs with Conference financial resources.

The five Connectional Table priorities are noted as:

- B = Belonging: "Center discipleship by forming people who grow in faith, live out the gospel and participate in God's mission in their daily lives, commit to young people's ministries"
- C = Community Engagement: "Support for mission work, training and advancing strategic partnerships"
- E = Essential Ministries: "Increase collaboration with church support, storytelling and e-learning"
- H= Healing and Retreat "Invest in healing trauma by responding to emotional and spiritual wounds"
- V = Vitality: "Enable new expressions of ministry, leadership and ethnic gatherings"

New Connectional Table Program Spending Includes:

Justice and Compassion Ministries: Clergy Wellness \$60,000 (H) Healing trauma, providing tools, relationships and support structures

Leadership: Grant Writer - \$50,000 (E) Support conference ministries to apply for funds to help fund key initiatives. Discipleship - \$25,000 (V) Building an intentional and diverse practice of Wesleyan Spirituality in our churches.

New Ministries: New Ministries Operations \$35,000 (B) Administrative costs associated with all new ministries. Young Generations \$100,000 (B) Conference activities funds support four major annual events for youth to gather, grow and lead. Also includes investment in new ministry objectives and application-based grants to local churches and ministry groups, supporting initiatives that foster identity formation.

2027 Non-Apportioned Program Fund Highlights

Budget incorporates the results of a comprehensive review of Cal-Pac's invested assets resulting in a spending plan of 4% of invested assets based on a 3-year average of year-end balances, a new column "non-apportioned program funds"

Invested Assets at Cal-Pac Foundation includes 33 funds with an asset base of \$33.6M

Using a spending plan of 4% (calculated on a 3-year moving average) yields \$1.34M available for missional needs.

Spending plan offsets include a combination of spending plan, grants and sponsorships.

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights

Additional assumptions in Budget calculations:

General Church apportionment increased to \$2,531,586. A 1.77% increase from 2026.

Administrative Fees from Pension Billings of \$527,153 offset staff salary, benefits and other administrative costs of the CFBO and Human Resource offices. The offset of \$363,043 (highlighted in red on the budget) indicate a 69% collection rate.

Budgeted Gap on Apportionment Payments of \$1,245,507 represents a collection rate of 86% on annual apportionment billing of \$8,669,562.

Total proposed *internal* un-apportioned Annual Conference budget of \$10,009,605 is an increase of \$606,777 from 2026. However, after applying non-apportioned program funds (spending plan offsets) of \$1,340,043 to the resulting apportioned budget of \$8,669,562 is an overall decrease of \$733,266 (7.8%) vs. 2026 (including absorption of increase in general church of 1.77%)

Budget incorporates the results of a comprehensive review of Cal-Pac's invested assets resulting in a spending plan of 4% of invested assets based on a 3-year average of year-end balances, a new column "non-apportioned program funds."

Invested Assets at Cal-Pac Foundation includes 33 funds with an asset base of \$33.6M

2027 Draft Apportioned Budget Highlights:

Connectional Table priorities are aligned with the budget; use of Conference assets reduce total budget by \$1.3M; and Budget is lower by \$733,266 and reduces Apportionments 7.8% vs. 2026

Mr. Yamamoto thanked the Connectional Table and the CFA for all their work.

Cabinet Matters (Part 1) – Rev. Moonyoung Lee, Dean of Cabinet

Rev. Lee shared that as she thought about this year's Conference theme, Astonish, she also thought about our Conference's vision to end spiritual and physical hunger. She was struck by how close these two things are. This is a God-sized vision. It is not something which can be accomplished in a year or two, or maybe

even in our lifetime. Rev. Lee stated that she is astonished by the weight of this work and trusts God will help us live this vision.

Astonishment requires that we get outside of what is comfortable and see with new eyes. She believes that it demands that we be willing to let go of what we knew to make space for where God is calling us – and that can be uncomfortable and risky.

She shared that this is the work the Cabinet has been engaged in. They have been honest about what is working, and what is not. They have engaged in pruning to make space for believing that we can be brave enough to end hunger in all its forms. To be brave enough to make different choices. To trust that when we prune, we are not diminishing our witness, but making space for the Conference to be more fruitful and vital. Rev. Lee stated that there will be many recommendations coming before this Annual Conference for our prayerful consideration.

Rev. Lee stated that she wished to celebrate two things which deserve our joy and attention. We are witnessing the birth of something new. Highgrove and Moreno Valley members of Box Springs Cooperative Parish are forming Abiding Faith UMC. She said that this is what it looks like when we say “yes” to where God is calling us. Two congregations are becoming one stronger witness.

Second, First German UMC in Glendale are embracing their future by changing their name to International Community UMC. They are answering God’s call to become the beloved community their neighbors need them to be.

REC 26-17 – Closure of Bethany United Methodist Church - Dr. Tom Choi

Rev. Choi shared the origins and history of the ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Rev. Choi moved REC 26-17 – Closure of Bethany United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Choi offered a prayer for the ministry of Bethany United Methodist Church.

REC 26-14 – Closure of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church – Rev. Moonyoung Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-14 – Closure of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of San Gabriel First United Methodist Church.

REC 26-11 – Disposition of Westmont United Methodist Church Assets – Rev. Moonyoung Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of Westmont United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-11 – Disposition of Westmont United Methodist Church Assets.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of Westmont United Methodist Church.

REC 26-13 – Closure of Montclair First United Methodist Church – Rev. Lee

Rev. Lee shared the origins and history of the ministry of Montclair First United Methodist Church.

Rev. Lee moved REC 26-13 – Closure of Montclair First United Methodist Church.

Bishop Escobedo-Frank called for a vote. It was supported.

Rev. Lee offered a prayer for the ministry of Montclair First United Methodist Church

Instruction and Closing Prayer

Rev. Karin Ellis, clergy member from La Cañada United Methodist Church, extended an invitation on behalf of the Justice & Compassion Ministry Team to a prayer vigil following the Memorial Service. Participants will gather to remember victims of injustice, to give thanks to God, and to be reminded of God's light in the world and within each person. The gathering is intended as a time of communal prayer and solidarity, centered on hope and the presence of God amid suffering and injustice.

Instructions - Rev. Won-Seok Yuh

Rev. Won-Seok Yuh offered closing instructions for the day's proceedings, commending Conference members for their work and drawing attention to several items requiring review before the following day's session. Members were advised of an update to Resolution 26-02 and were encouraged to review newly submitted legislation, including Resolutions 26-07, 26-08, and 26-09, in preparation for continued deliberations.

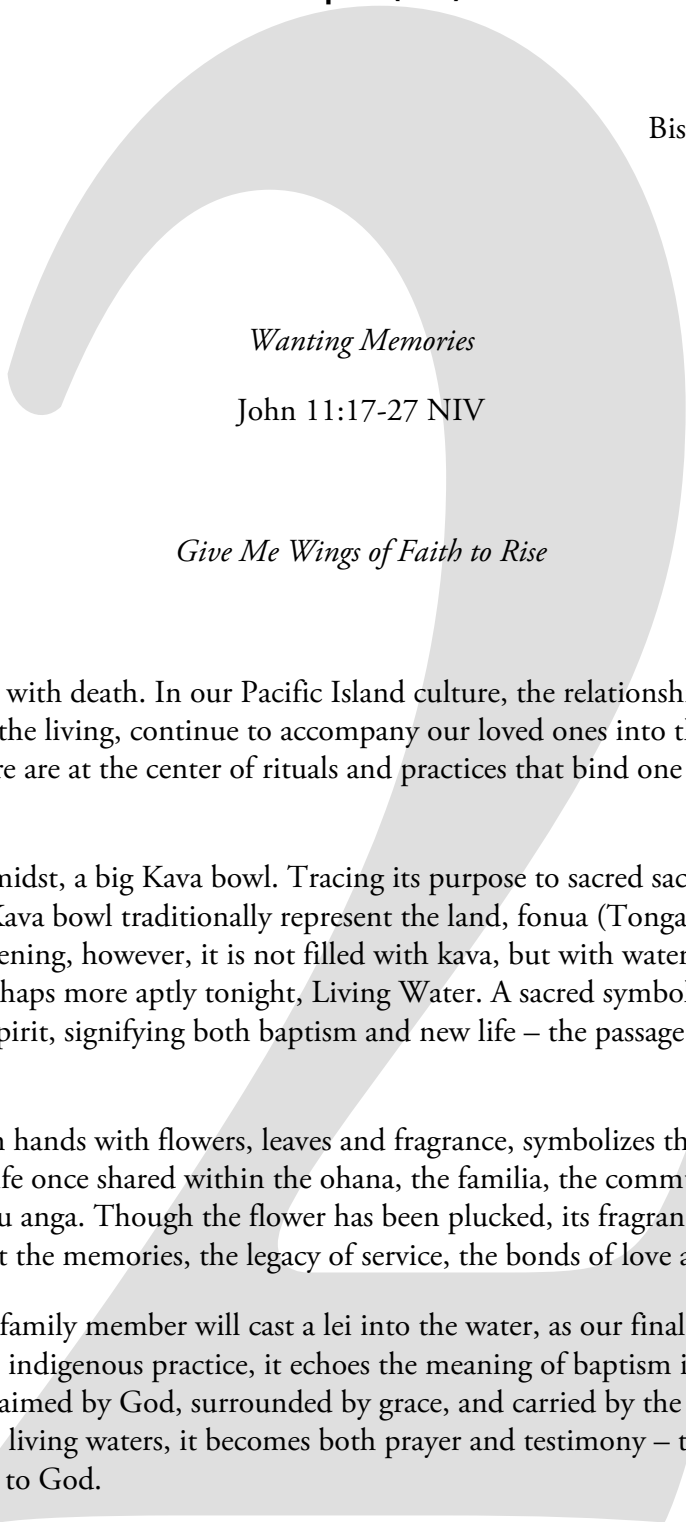
Additional announcements included an invitation for clergywomen to wear their "Women Lead the Church" shirts and gather for a group photograph. Information regarding evening events and activities was also shared with Conference participants.

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank welcomed retired Bishop Grant Hagiya, expressing the Conference's gratitude for his presence and for his years of faithful leadership and service to the California-Pacific Conference.

Closing Prayer

The day concluded with a closing prayer led by Norman Kelsey, lay member from North Hollywood United Methodist Church, who offered thanks for the Conference's work and prayers for the continuing discernment of the body.

42nd Annual Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference
Celebration of Life Worship Service
7:00 p.m. (PDT)



Prelude		String Quartet and Piano
Welcome		Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Call to Worship		Rev. John Griffin-Atil
Opening Prayer		Rev. John Griffin-Atil
Musical Performance	<i>Wanting Memories</i>	
Scripture Reading	John 11:17-27 NIV	
Message		Monalisa Tu'itahi
Song	<i>Give Me Wings of Faith to Rise</i>	Tongan A Cappella Singers
Acts of Remembrance		Rev. Viliami Ongo Koli

Relationships do not end with death. In our Pacific Island culture, the relationship continues, and our practices ensure that we, the living, continue to accompany our loved ones into their rest. Even now, even in death, gentle love and care are at the center of rituals and practices that bind one to another, even beyond death.

Tonight, you see in our midst, a big Kava bowl. Tracing its purpose to sacred sacrificial customs, the Kava ceremony and this very Kava bowl traditionally represent the land, fonua (Tongan) fanua (Samoan), and whenua (Maori). This evening, however, it is not filled with kava, but with water. Water, representing Oceania, Moana, but perhaps more aptly tonight, Living Water. A sacred symbol of the living water and the movement of the Holy Spirit, signifying both baptism and new life – the passage through death into resurrection hope.

The lei, woven by human hands with flowers, leaves and fragrance, symbolizes the beauty and interconnectedness of a life once shared within the ohana, the familia, the community. Mapakie 'a e faa, ka 'oku kei 'alha 'a hono tu'u anga. Though the flower has been plucked, its fragrance continues. Tonight they are no longer with us, but the memories, the legacy of service, the bonds of love and friendship, continue.

As each name is called, a family member will cast a lei into the water, as our final gesture of farewell and thanksgiving. Though an indigenous practice, it echoes the meaning of baptism itself: a remembrance that these our beloved were claimed by God, surrounded by grace, and carried by the promise of eternal life. As the lei is released into the living waters, it becomes both prayer and testimony – that in life, in death, and beyond death, we belong to God.

Family members, those blessed by their ministry, and those whose lives were touched, were invited to stand.

Reading of the Names

Rev. Garth Gilliam and Rev. Luis A. Garcia

The names of those who have finished their labor on this earth were read aloud:

Rev. George Cisneros, Jr.
Rev. Dr. David Corbin
Rev. Gwen Ehrenborg
Rev. Nancy Goyings
Rev. Steve Islander
Rev. Youngstone Jhun
Rev. Gwen Jones-Lurvey
Rev. Dr. Harvey Kemp
Rev. Whan Ki Kim
Rev. Russ Locke
Rev. Dr. Frances Materra
Rev. Heisik Oh
Rev. Seungbae Paik
Rev. Janis Specks
Rev. Dr. J. Robert (Bob) Stimmel
Mrs. Losapina Maile
Mrs. Kathryn Meier
Mrs. Petra Movido
Mrs. Amelia Namoa
Mr. Manukafoa "Tevita" Paongo

Rev. Dr. Wallace (Lee) Truman
Rev. Mark Ulrickson
Rev. Patricia Diane Kenney
Rev. Kirby Laurel Pickus
Mr. Salesi Sione "John" 'Atu
Mrs. Rita Calderhead
Mrs. Mildred Chang
Mrs. Anesiu Fine
Mrs. Aileen Houghton
Mr. Eric Jacobson
Mrs. Levāivanu Karapani
Mrs. Sook Kyung Kim
Mrs. Dorothy Knox
Mrs. Marjorie Koehler
Mrs. Patricia Locher
Mrs. Jean Price
Mrs. Damaris Rodriguez
Mr. Ji Shik Ryu
Mrs. Shelly Wiggins

Prayer for the Saints

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Congregational Song

Fear Not the Pain

Blessing

Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank

Postlude

Fear Not the Pain Reprise

Worship Notes:

The Astonish Ensemble:

Braden Pontoli – Music Director
Dr. Lara Urrutia – Piano, Keyboards & Vocals
Sarah Finley, Vocals
Kirk Averitt, Vocals
Agustin Donati, Guitar
Emilia Borja, Percussion
Nigel Deane, Violin 1
Manoela Wunder, Violin 2
Sean Lyons, Viola
Jeness Johnson, Cello

Credits

Home by Ola Gjeilo

For All the Saints, UMH 711

Wanting Memories by Ysaeye Barnwell

Fear Not the Pain by Rachel Ollak Kroh, arranged by Peter Amidon, Andrew and Hillary Donaldson

